23. UNHCR has also agreed in principle to finance a data processing exercise undertaken in Tehran on the basis of registration data compiled by the Iranian Council for Afghan refugees. It is hoped that the data generated will include the places of origin of refugees now in Iran, their previous occupation, the ethnic composition of the caseload, and their present occupation and skills acquired while in Iran.

24. UNHCR will pursue its data collection exercise throughout 1989 and continue to make the output available to all agencies of the UN system. The data generated through this UNHCR project will form one of the main components of the UNIDATA system being sponsored by the Office of the Co-ordinator.

25. Allocations foreseen for 1989 total US$ 0,9 million for the continuation of activities undertaken in Pakistan and US$ 0,1 million to initiate a data-processing project in Iran.

(b) <u>Programme component 2</u> : <u>Preparedness</u>

26. This programme component covers activities which are undertaken in anticipation of the return of refugees and is designed to build up a capacity to respond rapidly and adequately to a large-scale repatriation movement. In addition to the specific activities described below, UNHCR intends to continue its efforts, in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator and other agencies, to identify suitable implementing partners and to define, together with all concerned, a co-ordinated approach to voluntary repatriation assistance.

- <u>Prepositioning</u> (1989 Budget <u>US$ 19,200,000.-</u>)

27. UNHCR maintains its assumptions that :

(i) the distribution of relief items should not constitute uniform "packages" or "kits" for each single family but should rather be predicated on direct needs assessment region by region ; and that

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(ii) returnees' needs cannot be seen in isolation from the needs of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable categories living in the vicinity of returnee-concentration areas.

28. For budgeting purposes, however, it is assumed that stocks corresponding to 750'000 beneficiaries need to be pre-positioned in Pakistan and 250'000 beneficiaries in Iran. Additional prepositioning is also taking place in Afghanistan. As they are distributed or transferred to storage facilities located inside Afghanistan, these stocks should be replenished in order to maintain an immediate distribution capacity enabling the programme to face massive needs throughout 1989.

29. UNHCR stocks in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran will therefore be brought up to the levels shown in Annex II as soon as possible.

30. Based on reports of Salam missions, it appears that certain areas already offer the social and political coherence that would enable humanitarian action to start quickly, albeit on a modest scale. It is also expected that proposed Salam Mobile Units would assist in the selection of locations or support centres where some pre-positioning of relief items in Afghanistan is possible during 1989.

31. In the case of UNHCR inputs, such pre-positioning should be made out of stocks available in Pakistan and Iran, or, as appropriate, from in-kind contributions.

- Communications and Logistics (1989 Budget US$ 3,500,000.-)

32. UNHCR and WFP, together with the Co-ordinator, have agreed to set up UNILOG as a unified logistics unit providing transport and storage capacities that are necessary to fulfill the United Nations' responsibilities in the repatriation and rehabilitation programmes related to Afghanistan. UNHCR's support to UNILOG requires that:

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i) UNHCR participates actively in the Management Committee of UNILOG and promotes the role of that Committee as the central policy-making mechanism for all logistical problems relating to the programme (i.e. movement of commodities and, eventually, returnees);

ii) UNHCR, together with WFP and in close co-operation with the UN Co-ordinator, encourages donors to meet the initial financial requirements of UNILOG (e.g. truck fleet, working capital);

iii) UNHCR staff to be assigned to UNILOG should be recruited as a matter of priority; and

iv) The capacity of UNILOG to respond to the requirements of the operation should be tested through its involvement, whenever possible, in the logistical aspects of projects already funded through UNHCR or other members of the UN system.

33. UNHCR has already established a comprehensive telecommunications network linking all its field locations, sub-offices and most vehicles in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The network, which will hopefully encompass Iran in the near future, is also linked to the UNHCR Telecommunications Unit at Headquarters in Geneva.

34. Given the extent of the existing UNHCR network and the need for standardisation, the Co-ordinator has requested UNHCR to assume the responsibility for the expansion of the telecommunications network to cater for the needs of the whole UN system as they relate to Afghanistan.

35. The allocation under this activity includes the cost of setting-up and maintaining an integrated United Nations telecommunications network in the region, a provision for road and air transport, as well as the salaries of managers assigned by UNHCR to UNILOG.

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- Training of refugees (1989 Budget US$ 2,400,000.-)

36. In order to prepare the refugees for their return home, the existing UNHCR training programmes are being adjusted to focus more on the future needs of returnees in Afghanistan rather than the skills required in refugee villages or camps. Health training, various vocational training courses as well as veterinary training have thus been introduced, revised and/or expanded.

37. An allocation of US$ 1,9 million is foreseen for training activities in Pakistan where the number of trainees will be increased from 3'000 in 1988 to 10'000 in 1989. An amount of US$ 0,5 million will be used to cover a number of new pilot-training schemes for refugees in Iran.

- Immunization Programmes (1989 Budget US$ 700,000.-)

38. Immunization programmes in Iran and Pakistan are being expanded to achieve maximum coverage before the return of refugees. These programmes aim at reaching WHO immunization standards among the refugee population and are being implemented in close cooperation with UNICEF and WHO.

(c) Programme component 3 : Assistance to Returnees

39. This component deals with all activities undertaken within Afghanistan which are designed to facilitate the return and initial rehabilitation of returnees.

- Creation of conditions conducive to repatriation (1989 Budget US$ 10,000,000.-)

40. As it is expected that most of the refugees will return spontaneously, at least during an initial phase of the operation, and since most of the assistance will be provided inside Afghanistan on a community rather than on an individual basis, it is important to assist as early as possible those

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communities where refugees are expected to return. This would allow for an early start of the rehabilitation process and encourage returning refugees to be less dependent on relief hand-outs, thereby also lessening possible social tensions. The priority aspects which UNHCR has identified for such an initial rehabilitation effort are those activities directly linked to a lessening of dependency on future relief, to the rehabilitation of community infrastructure or to the infrastructure needed to facilitate relief distribution. These include:

- promotion of crop production;
- repair to water channels;
- underground irrigation canals (karezes) cleaning;
- basic repairs to access roads;
- repairs to public buildings, such as warehouses, silos, etc...; and
- provision of construction materials.

41. These activities will be implemented either through NGOs already working in close collaboration with local authorities, or directly through community administrative structures wherever this is possible. A major objective is the identification of suitable Afghan counterparts. Regular contacts and confidence-building processes with internal Afghan civilian and/or technical organizations will be promoted.

42. The projects will be of a small-scale nature and will rely on simple, appropriate technology. They will be developped in close consultation with Afghans, implementing partners, local authorities and other U.N. agencies and will address as a priority the needs of areas with large refugee/displaced populations.

43. Twenty-seven small-scale projects funded in 1988 for a total value of US$ 1.8 million have already been successfully completed. Forty additional projects for a value of some US$ 4.3 million have been finalised for funding in 1989 and a further provision of US$ 5,7 million has been made for additional activities currently under discussion.

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- <u>Support to returnees areas</u> (1989 Budget <u>US$ 16,800,000</u>.-)
(excluding food costs)

44. Taking into account the likely spontaneous character of repatriation movements as well as the varying needs and the differing levels of destruction from one region to another, it is inappropriate to distribute a uniform relief package for each returning family.

45. During an initial phase of largely spontaneous returns, UNHCR may provide support to refugee movements through the setting-up of basic health posts, the provision of potable water facilities and, if required, the prepositioning of dry-rations at major border crossing points and along return routes.

46. It should not be ruled out, however, that there may be particularly vulnerable groups among the refugees who would need transport assistance. This could be done as soon as a regular pattern of successful spontaneous return movements to a given region has been accomplished.

47. In the initial phase of the operation, pending the return of large numbers of refugees, UNHCR's participation in Salam Mobile Units will be used to monitor the situation in areas where refugees could return in large numbers and where some limited repatriation movements are already reported. At a later stage, when more significant return movements occur, UNHCR will be required to establish a more extensive and durable presence in these areas of return, in addition to its continuing presence in Kabul.

48. For budgeting purposes, it has been assumed that the allocation under this heading covers an estimated cost of US$ 100.- per family to support up to 150,000 returning families during 1989 as well as a provision of US$ 1,8 million to cover project personnel operating inside Afghanistan and related equipment and support costs.

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E. BUDGET SUMMARY

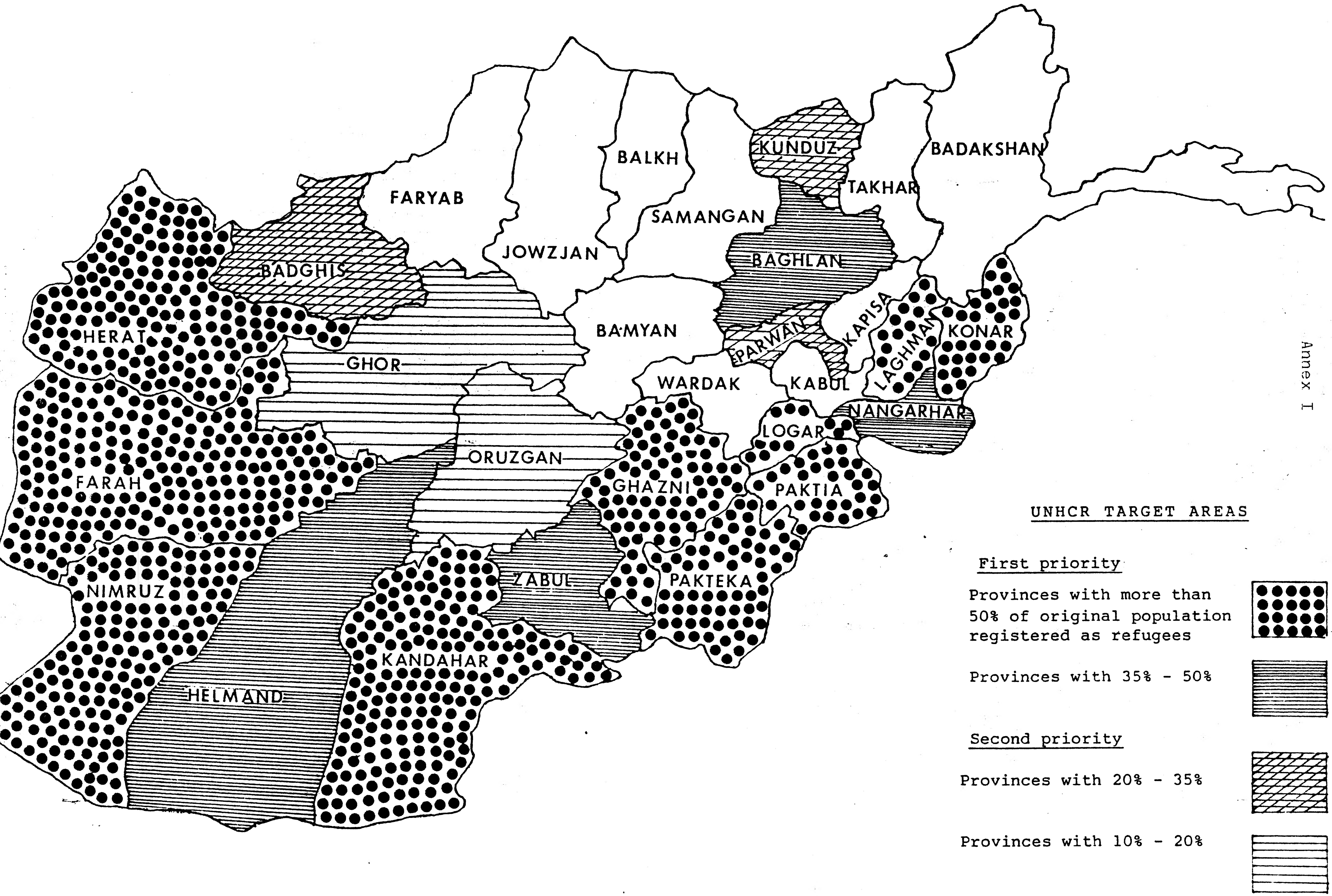
49. The activities listed above, together with essential programme support costs at Headquarters and in Iran and Pakistan are expected to require funding up to a level of US$ 61,2 million during 1989, in addition to the US$ 12 million spent in 1988. Taking into account contributions already paid upto 25 March 1989 and funds carried over from 1988, the shortfall is currently US$ 51,7 million, not including additional UNHCR contribution to the establishment of UNILOG.

UNHCR Budget Summary for 1989

	US$
Protection	
- Information Dissemination and Training	100,000.-
- Protection Monitoring	3,700,000.-
- Data Gathering	1,000,000.-
Preparedness	
- Prepositioning	19,200,000.-
- Communications and Logistics	3,500,000.-
- Training of Refugees	2,400,000.-
- Immunization Programmes	700,000.-
Assistance to returnees	
- Creation of conditions conducive to repatriation	10,000,000.-
- Support to returnees' areas	16,800,000.-
Programme Support	3,800,000.-
Total 1989 requirements	61,200,000.-
Funds available for 1989 activities	9,500,000.- *
	51,700,000.-

* Does not include US$ 1.5 million already channelled to UNILOG through UNHCR in 1989.

Annex I


BADAKSHAN
KUNDUZ
TAKHAR
BALKH
FARYAB
SAMANGAN
JOWZJAN
BADGHIS
BAGHLAN
BAMYAN
PARWAN
KAPISA
LAGHMAN
KONAR
HERAT
GHOR
WARDAK
KABUL
NANGARHAR
LOGAR
ORUZGAN
FARAH
GHAZNI
PAKTIA
NIMRUZ
ZABUL
PAKTEKA
KANDAHAR
HELMAND
UNHCR TARGET AREAS
First priority
Provinces with more than 50% of original population registered as refugees
Provinces with 35% - 50%
Second priority
Provinces with 20% - 35%
Provinces with 10% - 20%

Annex II

PRE-POSITIONING OF RELIEF GOODS AND OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT IN PAKISTAN, IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN

SECTION/ITEM	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS REQUIRED IN STOCK	1988		1989	
		PURCHASES EFFECTED UNDER 1988 PROGRAMME (no. of units)	VALUE (US $)	PURCHASES TO BE EFFECTED BY END APRIL 1989 (no. of units)	VALUE (US $)
A) PAKISTAN					
<u>Transport/Logistics</u>					
Light vehicles	50	25	430,000 ($ 17,200/unit)	25	430,000
Corrigated iron sheets	300mt	120mt (30,000m^2)	100,000	180mt	150,000
Modular containers	40	20 ($ 3,000/unit)	60,000	20	60,000
<u>Domestic needs</u>					
Quilts	200,000			200,000 ($ 7/unit)	1,400,000
Boukharis or materials for boukharis	100,000			100,000 ($ 10/unit)	1,000,000
Basic household kits	100,000			100,000 ($ 10/unit)	1,000,000

SECTION/ITEM	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS REQUIRED IN STOCK	1988 PURCHASES EFFECTED UNDER 1988 PROGRAMME (no. of units)	1988 VALUE (US$)	1989 PURCHASES TO BE EFFECTED BY END APRIL 1989 (no. of units)	1989 VALUE (US$)
Water					
Water tankers/trucks	15			15 ($ 70,000/unit)	1,050,000
Collapsible water tanks	15			15 ($ 6,000/unit)	90,000
Health					
Emergency health kits	15			15 ($ 15,000/unit)	225,000
Health tents	15			15 ($ 5,000/unit)	75,000
Shelter/Infrastructure					
Tents	50,000	30,000	2,400,000 ($ 80/unit)	20,000	1,600,000
Tarpaulins	50,000	25,000	850,000 ($ 34/unit)	25,000	850,000
Wooden beams	110,000			110,000 ($ 20/unit)	2,200,000
Crop production					
Hand tool kits	100,000	23,000	600,000	77,000	2,000,000
Wheat seed	3,000 m.t.			3,000 m.t.	1,300,000
Plastic sheets for seeds storage	1,000			1,000	100,000
SUB-TOTAL (PAKISTAN)					US$ 13,530,000

A. BACKGROUND

1. UNHCR has been providing assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan for the past ten years and in Iran for the past seven years.

2. In Pakistan, the principal implementing agency for the UNHCR assistance programme for Afghan refugees is the States and Frontier Regions Division (SAFRON) of the Government of Pakistan. The World Food Programme (WFP) provides most basic food commodities and is responsible for food aid co-ordination. Some 30 voluntary agencies also implement projects particularly in the health and self-reliance sectors. UNHCR also co-operates with the World Bank in the implementation of income-generating projects, worth US$ 40 million for the period 1987-89.

3. In Iran, the UNHCR assistance programme is implemented by the Government. The Council for Afghan Refugees (CAR) is responsible for the overall co-ordination of assistance activities and implementation of relief assistance projects. Technical projects are implemented by the appropriate ministries and specialised institutions under agreements with CAR and UNHCR. As in Pakistan, WFP provides basic food commodities and co-ordinates food aid.

4. Based on its previous intensive co-operation with the World Food Programme in Pakistan and Iran as well as in other refugee situations, UNHCR has endeavoured to maintain as close a contact as possible with WFP in planning the voluntary repatriation of the five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

5. UNHCR contingency planning in relation to a possible voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan was initiated during the course of 1987. This initial planning process was accelerated during the first months of 1988 and enabled the Office, after the signing of the Geneva Accords in April 1988 and the appointment in May 1988 of a Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan, to contribute significantly to the formulation of a U.N. strategy which was translated in the Secretary-General's Appeal of 10 June 1988.

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SECTION/ITEM	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS REQUIRED IN STOCK	1988 PURCHASES EFFECTED UNDER 1988 PROGRAMME (no. of units)	1988 VALUE (US$)	1989 PURCHASES TO BE EFFECTED BY END APRIL 1989 (no. of units)	1989 VALUE (US$)
B) IRAN					
<u>Transport/Logistics</u>					
Light vehicles	25			25 ($ 17,200/unit)	430,000
Corrugated iron sheets	100mt			100mt ($ 833/mt)	83,300
Warehouses	15			15 ($ 22,500/unit)	337,500
<u>Domestic needs</u>					
Blankets	80,000			80,000 ($ 5/unit)	400,000
Boukharis/material for boukharis	30,000			30,000 ($ 10/unit)	300,000
Basic household kits	30,000			30,000	300,000
<u>Water</u>					
Water tankers/trucks	5			5 ($ 70,000/unit)	350,000
Collapsible water tanks	6			6 ($ 6,000/unit)	36,000

SECTION/ITEM	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS REQUIRED IN STOCK	1988		1989	
		PURCHASES EFFECTED UNDER 1988 PROGRAMME (no. of units)	VALUE (US$)	PURCHASES TO BE EFFECTED BY END APRIL 1989 (no. of units)	VALUE (US$)
Health					
Emergency health kits	6			6 ($ 15,000/unit)	90,000
Hospital tents	6			6 ($ 5,000/unit)	30,000
Shelter/Infrastructure					
Tents	2,000			2,000 ($ 80/unit)	160,000
Tarpaulins	30,000			30,000 ($ 34/unit)	1,020,000
Crop Production					
Hand tools kits	35,000			35,000	910,000
SUB-TOTAL (IRAN)					US$ 4,446,800
C) AFGHANISTAN					
Transport/Logistics					
Light vehicles	2	2	34,400 ($ 17,200/unit)		34,400

SECTION/ITEM	TOTAL NO. OF UNITS REQUIRED IN STOCK	1988 PURCHASES EFFECTED UNDER 1988 PROGRAMME (no. of units)	1988 VALUE (US$)	1989 PURCHASES TO BE EFFECTED BY END APRIL 1989 (no. of units)	1989 VALUE (US$)
<u>Domestic needs</u>					
Quilts	20,000			20,000 ($ 7/unit)	140,000
Boukharis or materials for boukharis	5,000			5,000 ($ 10/unit)	50,000
Basic household kits	5,000			5,000 ($ 10/unit)	50,000
<u>Shelter/Infrastructure</u>					
Tents	1,000			1,000 ($ 80/unit)	80,000
Tarpaulins	1,000			1,000 ($ 34/unit)	34,000
Wooden beams	11,000			11,000 ($ 20/unit)	220,000
<u>Crop production</u>					
Hand tool kits	5,000			5,000	100,000
Wheat seed	500 m.t.			500 m.t.	220,000
SUB-TOTAL (AFGHANISTAN)					US$ 928,400
TOTAL (PAKISTAN, IRAN & AFGHANISTAN)					US$ 18,905,200

6. This UNHCR Plan of Operations for 1989 is the result of a series of internal as well as inter-agency planning sessions organised since the beginning of 1989. This planning exercise culminated in two inter-agency meetings, one in Islamabad at the beginning of March 1989 and one in Geneva on 3 April 1989, which developped and adopted a Plan of Action for United Nations Assistance in Afghanistan (1989). This document is intended to serve as support to Section II, 1.(a) of the Co-ordinator's Plan of Action dealing specifically with Voluntary Repatriation.

B. OVERVIEW OF UNHCR ACTIVITIES IN 1988

7. UNHCR's Operational Unit for Repatriation to Afghanistan (OURA) was created in March 1988 within the Regional Bureau for South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. A number of measures were taken throughout 1988 either to discuss with all concerned the principles of voluntary repatriation or to initiate concrete actions and projects to prepare the ground for the return of Afghans. During the year, a total amount of US$ 12 million was obligated by UNHCR towards activities described briefly in this section :

7.1. Relations with Governments and Afghan authorities

(a) Afghanistan

- Signature on 28 April 1988 of a Government/HCR Agreement on the basis of Geneva Accords ; the principles of free access to all parts of the country, flexible implementation arrangements and the possibility for UNHCR to operate a telecommunication system are accepted ;

- establishment of a UNHCR presence in Kabul as of 15 May 1988 ;

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- meetings have been held with all successive Spokesmen of the Alliance and contacts made with most party leaders in Peshawar, Tehran and Mashad ; numerous meetings were also held with field commanders.

(b) Pakistan

- Signature on 9 June 1988 of a Government/UNHCR Agreement relating to voluntary repatriation of Afghans as a follow-up to Article VI of the relevant Instrument of the Geneva Accords ;

- Setting-up of a joint SAFRON/CAR/HCR/WFP Committee to discuss repatriation planning. Following the establishment of his Office in Islamabad, the representative of the Co-ordinator also participated in these discussions.

(c) Iran

- Discussions with MFA and MOI are well advanced regarding:
  (i) access to Afghanistan via Iran,
  (ii) prepositioning and transit of goods,
  (iii) increased field presence at designated locations,
  (iv) telecommunications facilities, and
  (v) data collection on refugee population.

7.2. Support to U.N. Co-ordination

- Provisional UNHCR/WFP Plan of Operation finalised in April 1988 ; this document formed the basis of UNHCR's input for the Secretary-General's Appeal of 10 June 1988.

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- The High Commissioner personally attended donor's meetings organized by the Secretary-General and the Co-ordinator on 10 June and 12 October 1988.

- UNHCR has suggested the creation of a Working Group on Operations which now meets regularly ; the Office has also proposed and participated in technical meetings (e.g. Public Information, Fund Raising, etc...).

- At field level, various equipment including vehicles have been temporarily assigned to support Offices of the U.N. Co-ordinator.

- UNHCR was instrumental in promoting the creation of a NGO co-ordination mechanism.

7.3. Operational aspects

- A "data collection" exercise was started in Peshawar in March 1988 and is continuing ;

- UNHCR field presence in Pakistan and Afghanistan has been strengthened. Nine outposted field houses in Pakistan are already operational ;

- Relief supplies and operational equipment appearing in Annex II have been purchased and stored in Pakistan ;

- A radio and radiotext communication network linking all UNHCR field locations and most vehicles in Pakistan and Afghanistan is already operational. It is hoped that the network will cover Iran in the near future ;

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- Pilot projects of an emergency nature for a total value of $ 1,8 million have been funded. These projects which addressed the need for seeds and fertilizers have been implemented in 13 provinces of Afghanistan through 10 different NGOs ;

- UNHCR and WFP have co-operated actively in the creation of UNILOG and have set-up its Management Committee in close consultation with the Co-ordinator ;

- Immunization programmes and vocational training activities have been expanded over and above Annual Programme levels from funds provided as a result of the Secretary-General's Appeal ;

- UNHCR has participated actively in the negotiations leading to the organisation of Salam missions inside Afghanistan and has provided significant logistic support to all such missions.

C. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

8. UNHCR's involvement in voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan derives from its international mandate. The specific mention of UNHCR's role in the Geneva Accords reflects this mandatory function of the Office as it relates to voluntary repatriation. The role of UNHCR should also be seen in the wider context of a U.N. system effort under the U.N. Co-ordinator and the Office fully subscribes to the objectives and policy guidelines detailed in the United Nations Plan of Action issued by the Co-ordinator.

9. UNHCR perceives its role as not being strictly limited to the mechanics and logistics of physical repatriation. A successful voluntary repatriation implies international protection activities as well as measures related to immediate relief and initial basic rehabilitation of returnees, and, where feasible, the creation of conditions conducive to voluntary

repatriation. Such relief and initial rehabilitation work cannot ignore internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, particularly in areas of high returnee concentration. However, rehabilitation work by UNHCR should ideally be limited in scope and in time and be undertaken in close consultation with technical agencies.

10. The activities of UNHCR should reflect an appropriate balance (but not symetry) between various groups and regions. Assistance should be implemented by civilian and non-partisan entities.

11. The voluntary character of repatriation must be emphasized. Given the current political and security situation, an active promotion and organisation of returns should await clear indications, through intensive monitoring of spontaneous movements, that the refugees themselves consider that massive returns are possible.

12. Although UNHCR's Annual Programme (AP) activities related to protection and assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Iran, India and other countries do not form part of the special United Nations humanitarian and economic assistance programmes relating to Afghanistan, UNHCR's own planning should emphasize linkages between such activities and those financed under the special operation for voluntary repatriation. Measures already taken in Pakistan to shift part of AP expenditure from new investments in services and infrastructure towards repatriation-related activities (e.g. increased immunization, vocational training, etc...) should be pursued and, to the extent possible, replicated in Iran. Until there is firm evidence of large repatriation movements, the overall level of assistance to refugees in Iran and Pakistan should remain relatively stable.

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13. As the security situation fluctuates inside Afghanistan, there is a likelihood of a further exodus of persons fleeing a situation of conflict. Should there be political changes, particular groups might also be forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. UNHCR should continue to promote an open-door policy on the part of Iran, Pakistan and in other countries in the region and prepare contingency plans for possible influxes. Part of the relief items being stocked for repatriation might have to be used for such an emergency. This would be done on the understanding of a quick replenishment of repatriation stocks from UNHCR's General Programmes sources.

D. PLANNED 1989 UNHCR ACTIVITIES

14. UNHCR's operational approach in the context of voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan is based on the implementation of three types of activities or components where action needs to be pursued simultaneously. The objectives underlying those activities are twofold :

(a) UNHCR must ensure that refugees are in a position to decide by themselves, without pressure, the timing and manner of their return ;

(b) UNHCR must facilitate the return of refugees through an adequate provision of immediate relief and, in cooperation with other agencies, the creation of living conditions in the refugees' places of origin which will allow returnees to become self-sufficient as early as possible.

15. The three programme components outlined below concern protection, preparedness and assistance.

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(a) Programme component 1 : Protection

- Information Dissemination and Training (1989 Projected Budget US$ 100,000.-)

16. Information and training related to protection aspects of voluntary repatriation require a special and urgent effort. The UNHCR Division of Refugee Law and Doctrine in consultation with OURA and the concerned field offices is organising seminars and courses on voluntary repatriation principles and guidelines for the benefit of UNHCR staff, Government counterparts and interested UN agencies and NGO personnel in Pakistan and Iran. A first series of courses were held in Pakistan during the month of March and the first training sessions in Iran will take place during April. As required, additional courses will be organised in the region later in the year.

17. Expenditures covered under this activity include the travel costs of trainers, occasional rental of premises and training equipment as well as travel and accommodation of non-U.N. participants.

- Protection monitoring (1989 Budget US$ 3,700,000.-)

18. UNHCR's capacity to closely monitor protection problems and spontaneous movements of refugees will be crucial to the success of this voluntary repatriation operation. During 1988, UNHCR established nine additional field locations in Pakistan in the immediate vicinity of refugee concentrations. These locations are now fully operational. International and national staff attached to these field offices are expected to establish close contact with the refugee population, participate in data gathering on the places of origin of the refugees, assess their intentions as regards voluntary repatriation, identify and report any protection or assistance problems affecting the refugees. In this connection, a computerized reporting system is being established to allow for a rapid sharing of information between all field locations and Headquarters. International staff assigned to these monitoring functions will also be expected to participate actively in the provision of relief and support to returning refugees as soon as sizeable movements are witnessed.

19. Discussions are currently underway with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a view to establishing field offices in the two Iranian provinces bordering Afghanistan.

20. Costs foreseen in 1989 under this heading include US$ 3,2 million for the up-keep of this field network in Pakistan, rental of premises, staff costs and additional equipment and vehicles needed to perform monitoring functions. An allocation of US$ 0,5 million covers the establishment of at least one field office in Iran.

- Data gathering (1989 Budget US$ 1,000,000.-)

21. Reliable information concerning the refugees, their places of origin, their ethnic affiliation and their previous occupation together with as much data as can be assembled concerning the current situation in their provinces and districts of origin will constitute an essential tool for the planning and delivery of relief and rehabilitation assistance.

22. The data collection exercise begun in Pakistan by UNHCR in March 1988 has already produced documents which have constituted a significant input into the First Consolidated Report published by the Co-ordinator and have been used by Salam missions. Since the end of 1988, efforts have concentrated on the fourteen provinces of priority concern to UNHCR given the number of potential returnees to those areas. By July 1989, it is hoped that full profiles will be available for each of the fourteen provinces and more detailed ones for each of the districts within these provinces. This information is being gathered both through interviews with refugee leaders, Afghans living in those regions and NGO personnel and through visits on-the-spot by field workers.

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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN

UNHCR PLAN OF ACTION

FOR 1989

Note: This document is intended to serve as support to the Voluntary Repatriation Section of the Plan of Action for United Nations Assistance in Afghanistan (1989).

Geneva, 17 April 1989

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